



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/578,174	05/04/2006	Tsunchiro Higashinaka	290666US2PCT	5188
22850 7590 01/05/2010 OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, L.L.P. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				
EXAMINER				
CHAN, KAWING				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2837				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
01/05/2010		ELECTRONIC		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patentdocket@oblon.com  
oblonpat@oblon.com  
jgardner@oblon.com

# Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/578,174

**Applicant(s)**

HIGASHINAKA, TSUNEHIO

**Examiner**

Kawing Chan

**Art Unit**

2837

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 December 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2 and 4 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/22)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12/10/09 has been entered.

Claims 1-4 are pending for examination.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

2. The rejection to claim 3 under 35 USC 112 has been removed in response to the Applicant's Amendments.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Woodruff et al. (US 5,782,319).

**In Re claim 1**, Woodruff discloses a safety device (Figure 3: 44, 52, 54, 56) for an elevator (Figure 1: 22) comprising:

A pair of pivot levers (Figure 7: 112) provided to a car (Col 3 lines 3-5: the safety device 44 including pivots 112 are attached to the car) guided by a guide rail (28), the pair of pivot levers (112) being pivotable about a pair of pivot shafts (Figure 7: 110, 120) that are parallel to each other;

A plurality of braking members (Figure 7: wedges 60 on each side) each provided to each of the pivot levers (112 on each side), the plurality of braking members (60) being capable of coming into and out of contact with the guide rail (28) through pivotal movement of the pivot levers (112) (Col 4 lines 25-60);

A connecting member (116) pivotally connected to connecting portions (118) of the pivot levers (112), the connecting portions (118) located on opposite ends of the connecting member (116) along a plane formed by a longitudinal axis of the connecting member (116) (as shown in Figure 7); and

An electromagnetic actuator (50) configured to push the connecting member (116) in a first direction (e.g. left or right) to pivot the pivot levers (112) in a braking direction to bring the braking members (60) into contact with the guide rail (28) and to pull the connecting member (116) in a second direction (e.g. left or right) to pivot the

pivot levers (112) in a releasing direction to bring the braking members (60) out of contact with the guide rail (28) (Col 4 lines 25-60).

**In Re claim 3**, Woodruff discloses said connecting portions (118) of the connecting member (116) with the pivot levers (112) area arranged on different sides with respect to a plane containing axes of the pivot shafts (110, 120); and the electromagnetic actuator (50) causes the connecting member (116) to undergo reciprocating displacement along a straight line connecting between the connecting portions (118) (as shown in Figure 7).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

5. **Claims 2 and 4** are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The cited prior art do not teach or suggest "connecting portions of the connecting member with the pivot levers are arranged on the same side with respect to a plane containing axes of the pivot shafts" and "connecting portions of the connecting member with the pivot levers are arranged on a first side of a plane containing axes of the pivot shafts in a case that the braking members are in contact with the guide rail, and the connecting portions are arranged on a second side of the plane containing the axes of the pivot shafts in a case that the braking members are out of contact with the guide rail". The combinations of the claimed limitations in claims 2 and 4 and their

corresponding parent claims are not anticipated or made obvious by the prior art of record in the examiner's opinion.

### ***Response to Arguments***

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-4 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kawing Chan whose telephone number is (571)270-3909. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 9am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Walter Benson can be reached on 571-272-2227. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/K. C./  
Examiner, Art Unit 2837

/Walter Benson/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2837